## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

**NANCY RINEHART**, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

CASE No. 3:16-CV-05128-MAS-LHG

Plaintiff,

ν.

**AS AMERICA, INC.** d/b/a American Standard, a Delaware corporation and **SAFETY TUBS COMPANY, LLC**, a Delaware limited liability company,

Defendants.

# [PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS, an alleged class action is pending before the Court entitled Rinehart v. AS America, Inc., et al., Case No. 1:16-cv-05128-MAS-LHG; and

WHEREAS, Plaintiff Nancy Rinehart ("Plaintiff") and Defendants AS

America, Inc. and Safety Tubs Company, LLC, ("Defendants") have entered into a

Settlement Agreement, which, together with the exhibits attached thereto, sets forth
the terms and conditions for a proposed settlement and dismissal of the Action with
prejudice for the claims of certified Class upon the terms and conditions set forth
therein (the "Settlement Agreement"), and

WHEREAS, the Court has read and considered the Settlement Agreement

and exhibits attached thereto, this matter coming before the Court upon the agreement of the Parties, good cause being shown, and the Court being fully advised in the premises,

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, DECREED, AND ADJUDGED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. Terms and phrases in this Order shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Parties Class Action Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement Agreement").
- 2. The Parties have moved the Court for an order approving the settlement of the Action in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, which, together with the documents incorporated therein, sets forth the terms and conditions for a proposed settlement and dismissal of the Action with prejudice against Defendants, and the Court having read and considered the Settlement Agreement and being fully advised in the premises, hereby preliminarily approves the Settlement Agreement in its entirety subject to the Final Approval Hearing referred to in Paragraph 14 of this Order.
- 3. This Court finds that it has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and over all Parties to the Action, including all members of the Class as defined as:

All persons in the United States who (1) from a date four years prior to the filing of this Complaint until the date notice is disseminated to the Class, (2) were called by Defendants (or any third-party acting on behalf of Defendants), (3) on the persons' cellular telephones, (4) for the purpose of selling Defendants' products or services, and (5) had their lead information obtained by Defendants via the contractorlink.net website.

- 4. The Court finds that, subject to the Final Approval Hearing, the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Class Members as to their claims against Defendants. The Court further finds that the Settlement Agreement substantially fulfills the purposes and objectives of the class action against Defendants, and provides beneficial relief to the Class.
- 5. The Court also finds that the Settlement Agreement (a) is the result of arms' length negotiations involving experienced class action attorneys; (b) is sufficient to warrant notice of the settlement and the Final Approval hearing to the Class; (c) meets all applicable requirements of law, including Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, and the Class Action Fairness Act ("CAFA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1715; and (d) is not a finding or admission of liability by Defendants.

#### Notice and Administration

- 6. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, Analytics, LLC, is hereby appointed as Settlement Administrator and shall be required to perform all the duties of the Settlement Administrator as set forth in the Agreement and this Order.
- 7. The Court finds that the Notice Plan and all forms of Notice to the Class as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and the Exhibits thereto is also approved as its form, method, and content, complies with the requirements of Rule

23 and due process, and constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances. The Court further finds that the Notice is reasonably calculated to, under all circumstances, apprise the members of the Class of the pendency of this action, the certification of the Class, the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and the right of members to object to the settlement and to exclude themselves from the Class. The Parties, by agreement, may revise the Notice in ways that are not material, or in ways that are appropriate to update those documents for purposes of accuracy or formatting.

- 8. The Settlement Administrator shall implement the Notice Plan as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.
- 9. Defendants, or the Settlement Administrator acting on their behalf, shall also cause the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1715 to be satisfied through service of notice of the proposed Settlement upon the Attorneys General of each U.S. State and the Attorney General of the United States.

#### **Exclusion**

10. Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Class for purposes of this Settlement may do so by complying with the exclusion procedures set forth below. Any member of the Class who timely requests exclusion consistent with those procedures shall not be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

- 11. To request exclusion, the Class Member must complete, sign, and mail to the Settlement Administrator a request for exclusion. The request for exclusion must comply with the exclusion procedures set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Notice and include the member's name and address, a signature, the name and number of the case, and a statement that he/she wishes to be excluded from the Class for purposes of this Settlement. A request for exclusion must be personally signed by the member of the Class requesting exclusion and may not request exclusion of more than one member of the Class.
- Class Members who opt out of the Settlement Agreement shall not (i) 12. be bound by any orders of the Final Order; (ii) be entitled to relief under this Settlement Agreement; (iii) gain any rights by virtue of this Agreement; or (iv) be entitled to object to any aspect of this Agreement. However, Class Members who fail to submit a valid and timely request for exclusion shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement Agreement and the order of Final Approval, regardless of whether they have requested exclusion from the Settlement Agreement.

### **Objections**

13. Any Class Member who has not timely filed a request for exclusion may object to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Settlement Agreement or to Final Approval being entered and dismissing the Action with prejudice as to Defendants in accordance with the terms of the Settlement

Agreement. Class Members may object on their own, or may do so through separate counsel at their own expense.

To object, a Class member must sign and file a written objection no 14. later than on or before the objection deadline. To be valid, the objection must include the member's name and address, include all arguments, citations, and evidence supporting the objection (including copies of any documents relied on), state that he or she is a Class Member, provide his or her cellular phone number and provide a statement indicating whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing with or without counsel. Any objection made by a Class Member represented by counsel must be filed through the Court's CM/ECF system. Class members who fail to file and serve timely written objections in substantial compliance with the requirements of this paragraph and the Settlement Agreement shall be deemed to have waived any objections and shall be foreclosed from making any objections (whether by appeal or otherwise) to the Agreement. To be valid, objections must be filed with the Court and delivered to Class Counsel Patrick H. Peluso of Woodrow & Peluso, LLC, 3900 East Mexico Ave., Ste. 300, Denver, CO 80210, and to Defendants' counsel, Matthew Tharney, McCarter & English, LLP, 100 Mulberry Street, Four Gateway Center, Newark, NJ 07102. Final Approval Hearing

### 14. The Final Approval Hearing shall be held before this Court on

#### Further Matters

- 15. To protect its jurisdiction to consider the fairness of this Settlement Agreement and to enter a Final Order and Judgment having binding effect on all Class Members, the Court hereby enjoins all Class Members, and anyone who acts or purports to act on their behalf, from pursuing all other proceedings in any state or federal court that seeks to address any parties' or Class Members' rights or claims relating to, or arising out of, any of the Released Claims.
- 16. Class Members shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in the Action concerning the Action and/or Settlement Agreement, whether favorable or unfavorable.
- 17. In the event that the Settlement Agreement is terminated pursuant to the provisions of the Settlement Agreement, then (i) the Settlement Agreement shall be null and void, and shall have no further force and effect with respect to any Party in this Action, and shall not be used in this Action or in any other proceeding

for any purpose; (ii) all negotiations, proceedings, and statements made in connection therewith shall be without prejudice to any person or Party hereto, shall not be deemed or construed to be an admission by any Party of any act, matter, or proposition, and shall not be used in any manner or for any purpose in any subsequent proceeding in this Action or in any other action in any court or other proceeding, provided, however, that the termination of the Settlement Agreement shall not shield from subsequent discovery any factual information provided in connection with the negotiation of this Settlement Agreement that would ordinarily be discoverable but for the attempted settlement; (iii) other than as expressly preserved by the Settlement Agreement in the event of its termination, the Settlement Agreement shall have no further force and effect with respect to any Party and shall not be used in the Action or any other proceeding for any purpose; and (iv) any Party may elect to move the Court pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph, and none of the non-moving Parties (or their counsel) shall oppose any such motion.

18. Class Counsel shall move for an award of reasonable attorneys' fees to be paid as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and post its motion on Class Counsel's firm website no later than 14-days before the Objection/Exclusion deadline. Class Counsel shall move for Final Approval of the Settlement Agreement and respond to any objections no later than seven (7) days following

the Objection/Exclusion Deadlin	e.	
Dated:	Hon Michael A Shinn	_
	Hon. Michael A. Shipp United States District Judge	